Australia Celebrates The Queen's Birthday

On April 8 Australia Post celebrated the 88th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II with the release of one domestic base-rate (70¢) stamp and one international rate ($2.60) stamp.

"This royal milestone is being celebrated with two stamps using images of Her Majesty taken over recent years. We trust this stamp issue will be popular with collectors and followers of royal events," said Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt.

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926 and christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary. The Queen was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

In 1952, at the age of 25, Elizabeth became Queen. Two years later the Queen made her first visit to Australia and since then has made many tours of the country.

Following tradition, the official Monarch's birthday is celebrated every year in June, with the exception of Western Australia where it occurs in late September or early October. To honor the Queen's birthday in Australia an annual ceremony is held at the Royal Military College at Duntroon in the Australian Capital Territory.

The image of the Queen used on the 70 cent stamp was taken while she was viewing a parade in the West Midlands as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour of the United Kingdom in 2012.

Horse racing is one of the Queen's abiding pleasures and the photograph in the $2.60 cent stamp shows her at Royal Ascot in 2013.

The accompanying miniature sheet, not shown, features an image of the Queen while visiting Hereford Cathedral as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012.

Information on these and other Australia new issues may be accessed at

http://shop.auspost.com.au/stamp-coin-collectables